

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 15, 2018

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
H-305, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Chairman
Subcommittee on State,
Foreign Operations, and Related Programs
HT-2, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Frelinghuysen, Ranking Member Lowey, and Chairman Rogers:

As you finalize the Fiscal Year 2018 Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs (SFOPS) appropriations bill, we write to urge you to allocate no less than the FY17 enacted level of \$57.4 billion for America's critically important development and diplomacy programs.


The challenges the United States faces around the world have intensified in recent years. Our diplomats deserve the full support of our Congress as they promote U.S. interests around the world. As you know, a strong coalition of retired generals and diplomats, Fortune 500 CEOs and faith leaders have come together in support of a robust international affairs budget. We join them in urging that diplomacy and development are amply funded in the FY18 budget.

With changes to the amount of Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) funding potentially available for FY18, we urge you to find the resources needed to ensure that the SFOPS bill is funded at no less than the FY17 enacted level of \$57.4 billion. We understand that while OCO funding has been reduced, it has not been eliminated and the international affairs budget may continue to draw certain funds through OCO depending on circumstances. Regardless of the mechanism through which funding occurs, we urge you ensure that the Function 150 account is funded at least at the FY17 enacted level.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,


JOAQUIN CASTRO
Member of Congress


ELIOT L. ENGEL
Ranking Member
Committee on Foreign Affairs